

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

•• MINUTES ••

OF THE

SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

WILLS CREEK

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

PINE GROVE CHURCH,

DEKALB COUNTY, ALA.,

ON


SEPTEMBER 30th and OCTOBER 1st and 2nd

OFFICERS OF THE

JAS. B. FRANK

H. T. C

1898



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THE CAUSE OF THE REORGANIZATION OF THE WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Which was constituted in 1836, and declared to be a Primitive Baptist Association in 1840. Her resolutions were as follows:

ARTICLE 26. That this Association will not fellowship any church or churches, nor hold them in union, who are engaged in supporting any Missionary, Bible, Tract, or Sunday School Union Societies, or advocate State Conventions or Theological Schools, or Secret Institutions, or any other society that has been, or may hereafter be founded, under the pretense of circulating the Gospel of Jesus Christ; nor correspond with any Association engaged, or supporting any of the above named institutions, they being without a "thus saith the Lord" for them.

In 1843 there was a query brought into the Association by one of the churches, as follows: How shall we receive those who have gone off with the Missionary Baptists? Answer--By Reeminentation. Secondly--How shall we receive those who have been received by Missionaries since our separation from them? Answer--In the good old way, by experience and baptism.

From which resolutions and practice there has been a departure, the churches receiving members from other Baptists on what they call confession of faith without baptizing them, and some of the churches being unwilling to renounce the practice, and to return to former principles, caused a division of the Association.

Therefore we, a portion of the churches of the Association, being unwilling to conform to the practice of the fallen, believing it to be unscriptural and contrary to primitive practice. Therefore we have decided to reorganize the Wills Creek Association. A meeting was called, met with the churches, and was held before the 4th of July. The Association was reorganized, and the Association of Franklin County, Transylvania, and Johnson counties, was organized.

PROCEEDINGS.

1. Elder P. J. Meadows came forward and preached the Introductory sermon from the following text: Matt. 1st chapter, 16th verse, "And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."

2. Intermission of thirty minutes.

3. The messengers then convened at the house. The Clerk being absent H. T. Graves was elected to act as Clerk pro tem. Prayer by Elder A. Graves.

4. Called for the letters of the several churches, which were read and received and the names of the delegates recorded, except the letters from Antioch, Pine Grove and Shoul Creek, whose letters were tabled. (See table.)

5. Called for churches desiring admittance into our body.

6. The Association then organized by electing Elder Jas. B. Franklin, Moderator, and H. T. Graves, Clerk.

7. Invited ministers and brethren of our faith and practice to seats with us.

8. Appointed a committee to arrange the programme for preaching during meeting, to-wit: John Scott, T. C. Hayes and R. Wilks, sr., together with the delegates from Pine Grove.

9. Appointed a committee to arrange the business to come before the Association, to-wit: R. J. Wilks, Joshua Graves and David Carnes, together with the Moderator and Clerk.

10. Appointed a committee on Finance, to-wit: W. H. [illegible] and James Pendegrass.

Called for correspondence. Received none.

motion the Association adjourned to meet Saturday [illegible] o'clock.

DAY—SATURDAY MORNING.

ording to adjournment. Prayer

Report re-

ad Rules

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DeKalb county, convening on Friday before the fourth Sunday, in August, 1899.

7. Agreed that our next Association be held with Liberty church, one mile north of Heneger, DeKalb county, convening on Friday before the first Sunday in October, 1899.

8. Called for the report on finance. The committee reported \$11.00 contributed for minutes.

9. Elected Elder James B. Franklin to preach the next Introductory Sermon. Elder A. Graves, alternate.

10. Agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes and that we have six hundred copies printed, and if any balance of contribution is left the Clerk is to have it for his services.

11. Moved that the answers to the queries of New Bethel be adopted as reported by the committee.

We, the committee, agree to adopt the regular order of business with necessary amendments. As to the reference from New Bethel we leave it to the judgment of the Association as to what course to pursue.

In answer to the queries we will say, that it is not the practice of the Wills Creek Primitive Baptist Association to commune with members, who are out of order, when sufficient evidence has been furnished. Then if any grievances exist the aggrieved can make their grievances known, if desirous, and they will be considered as directed by the New Testament.

12. Their being two letters from each of Pine Grove, Antioch and Shoul Creek churches, and they having not complied with the Constitution, we deem it best to not receive either letter.

13. We tender the people of Pine Grove church and vicinity our sincere thanks for the kind hospitality shown us during our meeting.

14. The Association then closed in order to meet at time and place appointed.

JAMES B. FRANKLIN, M

H. T. GRAVES, Clerk.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

OF THE WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. We believe in only one true and living God—the Father, Word and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of man, and that he is not able by his own free will and ability, to recover himself therefrom.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ imputed to them.

5. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace in Christ and that God, according to His own foreknowledge, purpose and grace, chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world, through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and belief of the truth.

6. We believe the saints will persevere in and be preserved by grace and never finally fall away nor be lost.

7. We believe that baptism and the sacrament of the Lord's supper, and washing of the saint's feet are ordinances of divine worship; and the proper legal communicants, person born of the Spirit and baptized by a legal administrator, and the true scriptural mode of performance is to bury the body all over in water, and that true believers are the only fit subjects.

8. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinance of the Gospel only such as are legally baptized, called and ordained by laying on of hands and prayer by a ^{congregation} ~~tery~~.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead, general, and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the righteous eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM

BY WHICH THE ASSOCIATION IS TO BE GOVERNED.

1. The members regularly chosen by the churches shall compose the Association.

2. The members thus chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of the churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the WILLS CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

4. The Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, chosen by the suffrages of the members present by ballot, and the person to preach the Introductory sermon.

5. Any church belonging to the Association shall be entitled to three representatives and no more.

6. Any church desiring admittance to the Association shall petition by letter and delegates, and being found orthodox, shall be received by the Association and manifested by the Moderator giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

7. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any internal rights of the church.

8. Every motion made and seconded shall be put to a vote unless withdrawn by the one that made it, and a majority in all cases decide.

9. Every member who speaks in debate shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

10. The appellation of Brother or Brethren shall be used in all our addresses to each other.

11. No member shall be permitted to speak more than three times in debate on any subject without leave from the Association.

12. No query shall be taken under consideration by the Association, except where serious cases of difficulty arise, and cannot be settled by the church, or by any other churches which she may call upon; she may send it to the Association.

13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without the leave of the Association.

14. The minutes of the Association shall be read, if need be, and signed by the Association rising.

15. Any amendment to the form of the members' letters shall be decided by the Association.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	MINISTERS.	POSTOFFICE	Total	Dead.	Excluded.	Restored.	Dism'd by le	Rec'd by le	Baptized
1ST DISTRICT.	Both letters rejected.....	J S Massey*	Afong							
Antioch.....	Not represented	A Graves*	Grove							
Black Oak..	H T Graves, J Graves, A Graves.....	P J Meadows*, J M Meadows.....	Coll							
Mt. Pleasant	J M Meadows, J H Owens, John Meadows,		Coll							
New Bethel	J R Oliver, D Barnes, W H Moore.....	J Michel, J Bone, W Oliver*, M Oliver	St							
Little Creek.	Both letters rejected	J A Harrison*.....	W							
Pine Grove..	Both letters rejected									
Shoal Creek..	Both letters rejected									
2D DISTRICT.										
Corinth.....	H H Nichols, R Wilks, J E Phillips									
Mt. Zion ..	Jas Pendergrass, T C Haynes.....									
Macedonia ..	Ino Scott, Wm. Barnes, Jef. Pritchett.....	J H Chatman, W B Clark.....								
Red Hill.....	F A Morgan, J P Morgan, J B Franklin.....	J B Franklin*								
Liberty.....	J T Perry, M F Wilks, R J Wilks.....	J T Perry*.....								
Union.....	Not represented									
		Ordained Ministers marked								

